Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SY-05 MCT-01 /081 W

R 181320Z JAN 77 FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5595 INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA AMCONSUL DURBAN AMCONSUL JOHANNESUBRG

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN BLACK SCHOOL BOYCOTT

REF: CAPE TOWN 0037

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT SCHOOL BOYCOTT BY 3,000 BLACK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TOWNSHIPS HERE SHOWED SOME SIGNS OF WEAKENING WITH MASS MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 14 TO SELECT DELEGATION TO MEET JANUARY 17 WITH CAPE BANTU EDUCATION DIRECTOR D. OWENS. MEETING ON JANUARY 14 BROKE UP IN DISAGREEMENT WHEN A NUMBER OF SENIOR (LAST-YEAR) STUDENTS WALKED OUT TO PROTEST PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT.

2. STUDENTS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SEND DELEGATION TO OWENS BUT AN ESTIMATED 800 GATHERED AT HIGH SCHOOL IN GUGULETU YESTERDAY (JANUARY 17) REPORTEDLY IN HOPES OF HEARING ADDRESS BY OWENS. OWENS IN TURN ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH A DELEGATION BUT NOT RPT NOT TO ADDRESS MASS MEETING. SITUATION AS OF JAN. 18 REMAINS A STALEMATE WITH VAST MAJORITY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTINUING BOYCOTT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EM COMMENT: THE SPLIT IN STUDENTS RANKS IS BETWEEN THE SENIOR STUDENTS WHO CAN MAKE UP THE "MATRIC" EXAM (REQUIRED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE) ON FEBRUARY 14 IF THEY ATTEND THE PREPARTORY CLASSES NOW BEING OFFERED AND THE REMAINDER OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MOST OF WHOM APPARENTLY STRONGLY SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF BOYCOTT.

ACCORDING OUR SOURCES, MOST OF THE APPROXIMATELY 200
SENIOR STUDENTS WANT TO TAKE MATRIC EXAM AND GET THEIR
DEGREE NOW THAT THEY ARE SO CLOSE TO FINISHING. ONE
SOURCE TOLD US THAT AT MEETING ON JANUARY 14 THE SENIOR
STUDENTS WERE WARNED OF PHYSICAL REPRISALS IF THEY
RETURN TO CLASSES. THREAT APPARENTLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY SINCE
PRINCIPAL OF ONE OR LARGER HIGH SCHOOLS TOLD CONGEN OFF
ONLY ABOUT FIFTY STUDENTS, MOSTLY SENIORS, ATTENDED CLASSES
IN ALL HIGH SCHOOLS TODAY.
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Message Attributes

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